

The
THOREAU SOCIETY
BULLETIN

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal gathering of students and followers of Henry David Thoreau. John McAleer, Lexington, Mass., president; Mrs. Russell Wheeler, Concord, Mass., vice-president; and Walter Harding, State University, Geneseo, N. Y. 14454, secretary-treasurer. Annual membership \$3.00; life membership, \$100.00. Address communications to the secretary.

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BULLETIN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT

U S S N

0040-6400

WINTER 1982

"I had thoughts of returning to this house, which was well kept and so nobly placed, the next day, and perhaps remaining a week there, if I could have entertainment. Its mistress was a frank and hospitable young woman, who stood before me in a dishabille, busily and unconcernedly combing her long black hair while she talked, giving her head the necessary toss with each sweep of the comb, with lively, sparkling eyes"



Who was she?

The Dark Lady in A Week--Who Was She? by D. M. Murray

Readers of A Week On the Concord and Merrimack Rivers will recall the passage from "Tuesday," quoted with the cartoon, which describes the young woman Thoreau met on the way up Mt. Greylock in 1844.¹

He obviously found her attractive, though no doubt the "dishabille" was more like a housecoat than the risque garment in my cartoon. At any rate, his bright little sketch has more vivacity and appeal than most of the descriptions of women in his works.

One would like to know who she was.

Last July, after the meeting of the Thoreau Society, I climbed Greylock hoping to find at least the

remains of her dwelling. The problem turned out to be more difficult than I had thought. I did find a cellar hole and I did examine an old cemetery and some old maps, but the identity of the woman eluded me. Let me explain what I did find, in hopes that someone else will carry on with the detection.

The "long and spacious valley called the Bellows" (p. 189), up which Thoreau hiked, is easy to find, and the present-day Bellows Pipe Trail seems to follow the same route that the old road did, at least the same route as the road on a map dated 1876.² Both road and trail go up the valley, between Mt. Williams and Ragged Mountain, to Bellows Gap.

Today the area is thickly forested, the state

Water Department having allowed the trees to take over where once "there were a few farms, scattered at different elevations, each commanding a fine prospect of the mountains to the north" (p. 190). One climbs through a tunnel of maple and birch and hickory. The light splashes down only at intervals, and the occasional cry of a bluejay only emphasizes the solitude.

The present trail begins at Notch Road, opposite the home of Mr. Harry Bernard (who has lived there since 1921 and is very knowledgeable about the neighborhood and its history), where the road comes to go around Mt. Williams. I began to climb there, at an elevation of about 1300 feet.³

Approximately 70 rods up the trail (according to the 1876 map), a little stream comes down the west slope. (It is pure water, like that from the well Thoreau dug on the summit.) Following the stream up the hillside some 40 rods, one comes to an old cemetery, much overgrown with brush. An even row of old maples can be discerned, among the forest trees, just above it, and there is a stone wall. There are traces of a road here that once crossed the stream and descended diagonally down the mountain to Notch Road.

Many of the headstones are broken, or so worn by weather that their inscriptions are undecipherable. I noted, however, that there were at least five for members of the Wilbur family, who had been landowners on the mountainside since the 18th century. The oldest Wilbur stone I saw had a deceased date of 1807.

Other names were Sly, Phetteplace, Chase, Clegg, Morgan, Babcock, Walden and Sampson.

Going on up the trail to a point about 120 rods from the Bernard home, one finds, on the left, and quite near the trail, a cellar hole. It is almost filled with forest debris.

At the top of the valley, at an elevation of some 2000 feet, just before the valley walls mount steeply to the Gap, there is a kind of clearing. It is called by one historian "the Wilbur pasture."⁴ It is by no means level ground, and it is densely overgrown by raspberry and other shrubs, but the sparseness of the trees still suggests a pasture or field. There is a ruined stone wall, extending east and west, and there are a few long-unpruned old apple trees. I found no trace of a house.

Who lived along this trail that was once a road?

The oldest atlas I found--that of 1876--showed the Bernard property as then owned by A. Walden and showed the cellar hole location as the farm of D. P. Eddy. Much further up, where the clearing is now, was the property of S. Wilbur.

Thoreau's dark lady lived in "the last house but one" going up the road, and at first I thought it must have been the property with the cellar hole, once owned by Eddy.⁵

Looking at Thoreau's description again, however, I saw that the lady must have lived at the top of the valley. Thoreau had reached "the last house but one, where the path to the summit diverged to the right, while the summit itself rose directly in front" (p. 191). The house must have been on the Wilbur property. Perhaps the lady herself was a Wilbur.

I got no further with my search. But there may be some record older than the map I used, a record closer to 1844, and more detailed. And there may be, underneath the raspberry brambles and tree roots on that slope, the remains of a house that was once "well kept and so nobly placed."

Such evidence could lead to the identity of Thoreau's dark lady of the mountain.

Notes

¹ The Writings of Henry David Thoreau (1906; rpt. New York: AMS Press, 1968), I, 191-2. All references to A Week make use of this volume.

² Atlas of the Berkshires (New York: R.T. White, 1876), Plate 22.

³ United States Geological Survey Map, Williamstown Quadrangle.

⁴ Arthur Latham Perry, L.L.D., Origins of Williamstown (New York: Scribner's, 1894), p. 33.

⁵ In the Deeds Registry office, in Adams, I tried to trace the ownership of the place to 1844. David P. Eddy received the farm from Preserved (!) Eddy, who got it in 1854 from the North Adams Iron Works, which had bought it in 1847-48 from one of a number of grantors. I could not determine which one.

Xian Foreign Languages Institute

Xian, Shaanxi

P.R.C.



Oct. 19, 1855 John J. McAleer: Our Current President

John J. McAleer, the new president of the Thoreau Society, is a professor of English at Boston College where he teaches courses in the Concord Idealists, the Natural Mystics, Romanticism, Literary Criticism, and Literary Biography.

In 1955 Professor McAleer received a Ph.D. from Harvard where he studied under Professor Perry Miller and was a fellow of the Harvard Foundation and Dexter Traveling Fellow in Europe. His volume of Thoreau studies, ARTIST AND CITIZEN THOREAU, with a foreword by India's prime minister, Indira Gandhi, was published in 1971. For his article "Thoreau's Epic Cape Cod" he received the annual criticism award of the Catholic Press Association in 1969. In 1980 he was awarded the Memorial Bowl of the Baker Street Irregulars for his article on Sherlock Holmes and Thoreau.

Professor McAleer has published nine books, including a study of the Indian in American literature, and an edition of Theodore Dreiser's massive Notes on Life which documents Dreiser's debts to Emerson and Thoreau. Currently he is completing a 200,000 word biography of Emerson for Little, Brown & Company and gathering materials for a biography of Henry Beston, author of The Outermost House. His personal library contains more than 2000 books, and as many articles, relating to Emerson, Thoreau, and their peers. Since he is doubly descended from the Scottish Burns family it pleases his fancy to wonder if Thoreau's grandmother, Jennie Burns, may be a remote kinswoman.

Report of the Walking

Society - The Old Manse

Oct. 2, 1855



One of the nice things about Concord's historic houses which are open to visitors is the fact that the guides spend a great deal of time doing research about the people who once lived there. They do this not just to be able to answer tourists' questions, but because they very quickly come to care about the old houses and their inhabitants.

The Old Manse whose background is so closely connected with the early days of the Revolution as well as with the nineteenth century literary group is particularly rich in its long history. Aside from their individual research, the guides have

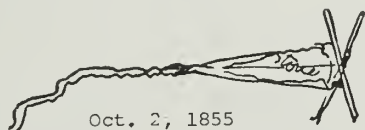
what they call Manse Nights. They gather in the old kitchen to have a covered dish supper, and then listen to a talk by one of Concord's history buffs.

Sometimes the two Fenn members of the Walking Society are invited to Manse Night, and it is a rare treat indeed. We gather around the table in the cozy old kitchen with its great fireplace and dutch oven, the primitive sink and dishes in the corner cupboard brought back to America in the holds of slipper ships, and even the cradle which rocked many an Emerson and Ripley baby.

After supper we repair to the front room which was once Ezra Ripley's sleeping quarters, but which the Hawthornes changed with the aid of cheerful paint and paper into "one of the prettiest and pleasantest rooms in the whole world." The diningroom adjoining it looks out across the field to the river where Thoreau taught Hawthorne to row. On the small window panes are names and dates written by the Hawthornes with Sophia's diamond. It was here that Thoreau was entertained, as Hawthorne put it, "On our nectar and ambrosia." The little back room upstairs served as a study for Emerson when he lived in the Manse with his grandparents, and later for Nathaniel Hawthorne.

In the evening there is a stillness about the Old Manse, for the tourists have all gone home. Since it is set well back at the end of its avenue of ash trees, the sound of an occasional car along the road beyond the stone wall is muffled.

As we leave after a delightful evening and walk down the dark and quiet avenue, we look back at the Manse looming up in the darkness with soft lights twinkling through the old fashioned small paned windows.



Oct. 2, 1855

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . WH

[Note: Most of the new books reviewed here may be ordered from the Thoreau Lyceum, 156 Backnap Street, Concord, Mass. 01742.)

Allen, Gay Wilson. *WALDO EMERSON*. New York: Viking, 1981. 751pp. \$25. Allen's long-awaited biography of Emerson has arrived and it is decidedly worth the waiting for. It is surely the biography for our generation. While it is perhaps not quite so heavily detailed as Rusk's 1949 biography, it is so much more relaxed, so much more readable, so lucid and graceful in style, so judicious in its judgments. It is a pure pleasure to read. From it Emerson emerges as so much more of a human being, a man who far from living in an ivory tower, was deeply concerned about American materialism and the lowering standards of American business ethics. Incidentally, this is the first Emerson biography to deal frankly with Emerson's second marriage and to admit that it was not always an entirely pleasant relationship. Lidian Emerson could at times be an extremely difficult person to live with. Allen does not belabor the subject, but neither does he try to cover it up.

We wish Allen had found more time for the relationship of Emerson and Thoreau in his volume. What he does have to say is usually very good and he is excellent in belittling Canby's far-fetched theories about a Lidian-Henry romance. I do think he whitewashes Emerson's negative reaction to Henry's going to jail, and he gets several details about Thoreau's death and burial wrong. But in general Thoreau is surprisingly peripheral to the book. None-

theless, this is the biography of Emerson to read.

Bushman, Claudia L. "A GOOD POOR MAN'S WIFE: BEING A CHRONICLE OF HARRIET HANSON ROBINSON AND HER FAMILY IN NINETEENTH CENTURY NEW ENGLAND." Hanover: University Press of New England, 1981. 276pp. New information keeps turning up about Thoreau in all sorts of places. This book is based on the diaries and letters of a 19th century feminist, the wife of "Warrington" Robinson, the Massachusetts journalist, who for three years (1854-1857) rented the "Texas House" from the Thorcaus. Mrs. Robinson apparently was not among Henry's admirers. She questioned the economics of his Walden experiment and thought that Emerson "is a god by the side of him." (However when Mrs. Bushman thinks Mrs. Robinson was snubbing the Thoreaus in not mentioning their Sleepy Hollow Cemetery plots were adjacent, she was not aware that the Thoreaus did not buy their plot till some years later.) Mrs. Robinson incidentally thought all Concord a "dull," "narrow," "snobbish" place. The book as a whole is an informative picture of 19th century New England life, politics, and feminism, particularly of Lowell, where Mrs. Robinson was for a time one of the mill girls. An extensive bibliography of New England family life is very useful.

Cavell, Stanley. *THE SENSES OF WALDEN*. Review. BEST SELLERS. Aug. 1981.

Chute, B.J. "Treasure Trove." *GOOD HOUSEKEEPING* November, 1981. 152ff. A short story with numerous quotations from Thoreau.

Davis, William. "Past Is Present in Chesuncook" *BOSTON GLOBE*. Sept. 27, 1981. On THE MAINE WOODS.

Enns, Catherine. "Actor Approaches His Craft with a Different Viewpoint." *CONCORD JOURNAL*. Nov. 19, 1981. On Christopher Childs' interest in Thoreau.

Erwin, Robert. "Thoreau." *HARVARD MAGAZINE*. Nov. 1981. Harvard once again denounces its alumnus: "Thoreau's own generation made the right judgment: few read him."

Fields, Rick. *HOW THE SWANS CAME TO THE LAKE: A NARRATIVE HISTORY OF BUDDHISM IN AMERICA*. Boulder, Col.: Shambhala, 1981. Pages 54 to 64 deal with Thoreau's and Emerson's interest in the Buddhist scriptures and conclude of Thoreau: "Thoreau was profoundly sympathetic, but he was not, in any sense of the word, a convert." Certainly the most detailed history of Buddhism in the United States and one of the best on Thoreau's interest in the subject.

Floody, Dale R. "Further Systematic Research with Biorhythms." *JOUR. OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY*, 66 (1981), 520-521. Includes a "biorhythmic" examination of Thoreau's journal and concludes it reveals no clear correlation between his "difficult" days and his "critical" days.

Hebert, Ernest. "Just a Little Quiet Place." *BOSTON GLOBE*. Nov. 1, 1981. Thoreau's journal as he might have written it were he living at Walden today.

Ilebeaux, Richard. "'Sugar Maple Man': Middle-aged Thoreau's Generativity Crisis." *STUDIES IN AMERICAN RENAISSANCE*, 1981, 359-378. (Once again we want to commend SAR as absolutely the best journal in the field. Don't miss it.)

Machlis, Sharon. "Thoreauvians Pleased with Pond Plans." *MIDDLESEX NEWS*. July 13, 1981. Report on society annual meeting.

Martin, Mary. "Woman Finds Thoreau Manuscript" *MIDDLESEX NEWS*. Nov. 6, 1981. Details of the discovery of a forgotten volume of Thoreau's on the shelves of the Concord Public Library--his copy of the 9TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, with a page of manuscript from CAPE COD laid in!!!

Meyer, Michael. "Thorcau and Black Emigration" *AMER. LIT.*, 53 (Nov. 1981), 380-396.

Moller, Mary Elkins. *THOREAU IN THE HUMAN COMMUNITY*. Review. *AMER. LIT.*, Nov. 1981.

Monette, Paul. "Come Spring" in *NO WITNESSES*. New York: Avon, 1981. pp. 63-74. A long and at times very beautiful but difficult poem on Thoreau. Undoubtedly one of the more important Thoreau poems of recent years.

- NEWSWEEK. "The Desecration of Walden Pond." Oct. 12, 1981.
- O'Rourke, Owen. "Winter on Its Way at Walden Pond." CONCORD JOURNAL. Oct. 22, 1981. Mostly photographs.
- Poniewaz, Jeff. "Reagan vs. Thoreau." NEW AGE, 7 (October, 1981), 96-95. A "conversation" made up from quotations from Thoreau and the President!
- REAGAN VS. THOREAU ON "ECONOMY." San Francisco, 1981. 7pp. A much longer version of the above.
- Prince, Sarah. "Lost Thoreau Manuscript Found by Library Volunteer." CONCORD JOURNAL. Nov. 5, 1981. More details on the library discovery.
- Rowley, Gordon E. "Winter an Ideal Time to Visit Thoreau Country." TORONTO STAR. Dec. 5, 1981.
- Skehan, James W. PUDDINGSTONE, DRUMLINE, AND ANCIENT VOLCANOES. Boston College, 1975. pp. 42-49. Many details on the geology of Walden Pond and the Thoreau country.
- Thoreau, Henry David. JOURNAL [Vol. 1]. Review. NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW. Dec. 20, 1981.
- WALDEN. Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 1981. 303pp. With an introductory essay by Edward Abbey. Edward Abbey is often spoken of as a 20th century Thoreau. He turns out to be a perfect choice to introduce his 19th century counterpart. As Thoreau projects his ideas against the background of Walden Pond, Abbey projects his introduction against the background of a boat trip down the Green River in the canyons of southeastern Utah. His introduction is one of the few if not the only introduction to WALDEN that can stand on a level equal to WALDEN. It is thoughtful; it is provocative; it is witty. Like Thoreau, he can make you chuckle at the very moment he is beheading you. "Many of his friends, neighbors, relatives and relative friends," says Abbey, "must have sighed in relief when Henry finally croaked his last. . . . But, to paraphrase the corpse, they had somewhat hastily concluded he was dead." This is only one of dozens of gems in the introduction. . . . The text of the book is well printed, in large type on good paper, though I am sorry to say they picked as copytext a version that perpetuates many of the typos that have crept into the text over the years. The cover portrait of Thoreau by Antonio Frasconi will, I am glad, give much wider circulation to one of the most moving portraits of Thoreau ever made.
- VanSoestem, Larry. "Back to Nature...Almost." MILWAUKEE JOURNAL. Oct. 25, 1981. An imaginary interview with Thoreau.
- Wagenknecht, Edward. HENRY DAVID THOREAU: WHAT MANNER OF MAN? Review. BEST SELLERS. June, 1981.
- Wirth, Robert. HENRY D. THOREAU ON THE BEAUTY AND WONDER OF NATURE. Baltimore: Wolk, 1981. Number VII in Wirth's series of "Man and Nature" posters. A large photograph of reflections with quotation from Thoreau. Copies may be ordered at \$6 postpaid from the artist, Box 5455, Mount Washington Station, Baltimore, Md. 21209.
- Wolkovich-Valkavicius, William. IMMIGRANTS AND YANKEES. W.Graron, Mass.; published by the author, 1981. pp. 61-61 contain comments on Thoreau's relationship with the Irish.



Sept. 11, 1855

A NEW THOREAU JOURNAL

The Thoreau Journal Quarterly, previously edited at Orono by Professor Marie Urbanski, will be published hereafter at the University of Minnesota under the title The Thoreau Quarterly. Editors will be John Dolan (philosophy) and Wendell Glick (English). Format and emphasis will be considerably altered.

The Quarterly will publish original essays on the literature, philosophy, and culture of the American Renaissance. Scholars from non-literary disciplines are particularly invited to employ the resources of their fields toward explicating and interpreting

literary texts. In accordance with this broad purpose, the editorial board of the Journal will include philosophers Nozick and Cavell of Harvard, Frankens of Michigan, Morgenbesser of Columbia, Anscombe of Cambridge, and Schwartz of CUNY; linguist Noam Chomsky of MIT; Regents' Professor of Chemical Engineering Aris of Minnesota, in addition to American literature scholars Thorp, Porte, Hovde, Howarth, Witherell, Garber, Sealts, Moldenhauer, Foster, and Urbanski.

The first issue of the Journal will appear in Winter, 1982, and will consist principally of commentaries on Walden. Among the contributors to this issue will be scholars Lewis Leary, John Broderick, Sherman Paul, Rutherford Aris, and Herbert Bailey. Future issues will include contributions from William H. Gass, Frederick Garber, E. H. Madden, Keith Gunderson, Marshall Cohen, Stanley Bates, and Stanley Cavell.

Domestic subscriptions are \$12 (individual), \$15 (institutional), and \$8 (student). All correspondence should be directed to the Managing Editor, The Thoreau Quarterly, 355 Ford Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455.



THE THOREAU SOCIETY: A HISTORY (III) by Walter Harding

Jan. 31, 1855

The Thoreau Society was barely under way when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred and we became involved in World War II. I was drafted almost immediately and having no idea of my future whereabouts, I submitted my resignation as secretary. Instead the society voted to put me on leave-of-absence and T. Morris Longstreth, the writer who was at the time a resident of Concord, was made acting secretary to carry on the records until I was free again. Before I left graduate school and Chapel Hill, I prepared copy for Bulletin #2 and it was mailed out by Raymond Adams shortly thereafter. Since "unnecessary travel" was banned by the War Office, the 1942 annual meeting was limited to those who lived in Concord and its environs and a small meeting was held at the D.A.R. Hall, with Raymond Adams in the chair and Robert Francis reading a paper on Thoreau and his brother John. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana, colorful as ever, led a pilgrimage to Walden Pond, whereupon he climbed up on top of the cairn and declaimed as only he could declaim. Under Raymond Adams' direction a beautifully printed little booklet summing up the first annual meeting was issued, marking the beginning of our booklet series. But as the war progressed, the society seemed to sink into the doldrums. The 1943 annual meeting was cancelled. The bulletin slipped into a pattern of very sporadic appearance. People began asking if after such a good start the society was going to go moribund.

The only bright spot on the horizon was a small group of New York City members led by Daniel Bernstein who began holding occasional meetings in various homes with now and then a small dinner meeting at a quiet restaurant. Dan, son of a Park Avenue family, attended Cornell University where he acquired the Thoreau virus from one of Henry Meyers' American literature classes. Deciding to follow the simple, rural life, Dan got a job as a hired man on a Vermont milk farm and reveled in it. But when a drunken driver ran head on into Dan's car, Dan ended up spending many months in and out of hospitals. To relieve his tedium he began collecting everything and anything pertaining to Thoreau that he could lay

his hands on. It was the beginning of the collection that eventually became one of the most important units of our Thoreau Society archives. Dan was a beautiful, gentle soul. Always deeply concerned for the welfare of his fellow man, he involved himself heavily in both time and money in many social causes. Sadly he died of leukemia at an all too early age and it was then his family gave his collection, along with an endowment, to the society.

The most colorful member of the New York group was, without question, Rella Ritchell, who conducted a series of "culture clubs" in Brooklyn. There was no gainsaying Rella's enthusiasm for Thoreau. And if you didn't share her enthusiasm, she pestered you until you did. For years she never failed to show up at the annual meeting, usually surrounded by a group of Brooklynites she had collared to come with her. And she never failed to be heard at the annual meetings--most often reciting one (or more) of her poems. Her only rival in poetry was Mark Twain's "Sweet Singer of Michigan." In the early 1950s she published a volume of her own verse and sent glowingly inscribed copies to many of the members of the Thoreau Society, followed a week or two later by bills for the books. When some of us returned the books, she sent them back to us with notes pointing out that since she had inscribed them to us, they couldn't be sold to anyone else and thus she expected us to pay for them. One of the more dramatic moments in the history of the society occurred at the next annual meeting when she rose up and announced the names of those "cheapskates" (your secretary among them) who would not pay for the books she had inscribed to them.

✱ ✱ ✱ Jan. 24, 1855

Definitive Statement of the Differences between two Editions of F. B. Sanborn's Henry D. Thoreau, the "American Men of Letters" edition of 1882, and the "Great American Authors" edition of 1910, called the "Revised Edition" by Lawrence H. Conrad

Both these editions are issued by the Houghton Mifflin Co., at the Riverside Press, Cambridge. Both match, page for page, and must certainly have been printed from the same plates, with the exceptions here noted. In spite of the passage of twenty-eight years, the author usually made no change in his verb-tenses when referring to matters current in 1882, but long since gone by in 1910. It is accordingly to be noted that he was under some restriction from the publisher, who was desirous of holding down expense and would permit only a minimum of "corrections" where some grievous error was to be eliminated.

Half-title, title-page, and copyright notice are changed, of course, to indicate the new series, new edition, and new publication date. The steel engraving of Henry Thoreau (with full beard), used opposite the title-page in the 1882 edition, is omitted in the edition of 1910.

The "Revised Edition" has a Preface which adds ten pages to the "front matter" of the book. This is entirely new in this edition and marks the most extensive change in the two works. The Preface is dated "Concord, Mass., October 8, 1909."

Page 121; the name "Thoreau" is changed to "Emerson" twice on this page, indicating that Sanborn in the earlier edition had attributed to Thoreau a piece of writing ("Captain Hardy") which really was the product of Emerson's pen. And here, since this one change is a necessary one, he takes advantage

of the fact that the plate is to be destroyed, and brings the tenses of two verbs out of the present and into the past. 'Stroll' becomes 'strolled', and 'gaze' becomes 'gazed'.

Page 123, at the chapter's end, the 1910 edition has a "Note" in fine type, explaining the change of names just noted above. It reads:

Note. - The account of "Captain Hardy" was copied by Channing from Emerson's Journal into the first biography of Thoreau, without the name of the author; and so was credited by me to Thoreau in a former edition of this book.

Page 163. - The earlier edition says "I suspect that Thoreau's first poems date from the year 1837-38." The revised edition changes merely the dates to "1836-37." Concerning the verses entitled "To the Maiden in the East," the earlier edition says they "were, I imagine, among the first, though this is not certain; and near these in time was that poem called "Sympathy," which was the first of his writings to appear in Mr. Emerson's "Dial." These were both addressed, we are told, to the same maiden, with "[Here ends the page.]

In the edition of 1910, same page, in reference to the same poems, Sanborn says that the verses "were by no means among the first, which date from 1836 or earlier; but near these in time was that poem called "Sympathy," which was the first of his writings to appear in Mr. Emerson's "Dial." These last were addressed, we are told, to Ellen Sewall, [Here ends the page.]

Page 164. Though a new plate was made for this page, only this change was made in the text. Whereas the 1882 edition had declared, "Neither of these poems shows any imitation of Mr. Emerson;" the revised version says, "Few of these poems show any imitation of Mr. Emerson..."

Page 178. Here the date 1841 in the 1882 edition, the date of Ellery Channing's first coming to Concord "with his bride" is changed to 1843. This is the only change on the page.

Page 323, in the Index, the name "Sewall, Ellen, 163" is inserted. (Her name did not appear in the early edition.) To accommodate this new item without re-setting the whole Index, "Service, The, 172" is omitted entirely, and on the next following lines, "Shay, The One-Horse" is changed to "Shay, a one-horse, 131-133."

These are all of the changes.

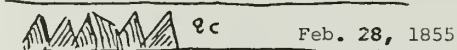
Thus, with the exception of a Preface, which has been added, the "Revised Edition" of 1910 has only sixty-six words of alteration. Since forty of these constitute a Note explaining one of the alterations in the text, there are only twenty-six altered words. It is interesting to note what it was that Sanborn seriously wanted to change after twenty-eight years.

He learned that a passage he attributed to Thoreau, actually belonged to Emerson. He had learned that he ought to move the date of Thoreau's earliest poems back a whole year. He had decided to insert the name of Ellen Sewall into his book, having referred to her anonymously in the earlier work. And he had learned that his dating of Ellery Channing's arrival in Concord (and even the date of his marriage) was wrong, the former by two whole years.

All of the other changes are trivial, a mere fiddling with words, perhaps to keep the necessary alterations from disturbing the type on adjacent pages. New plates had to be made, it is certain, for only six of the pages of text in a volume of 324 numbered pages. Add ten pages of Preface and three new plates for "front matter," and the total cost of

preparing the "Revised Edition" must have been very modest indeed.

[Montclair State College, Emeritus]



"THOREAU IN PARIS 1980" by David Haag

On November 18th and 25th, at the British Institute in Paris (France) Mr. Henry Genese gave a series of lectures on the subject of "Thoreau's Walden."

As a member of The Thoreau Society I have, for some time, noted the widespread appeal of Thoreau and his writings. Thus it was with interest that I attended the lectures, and I must admit that my interest arose not only from the subject matter proposed, but out of curiosity to see just what kind of reception HDT would have in the Paris of 1980.

The Institute's "Grande Salle" was comfortably full with at least sixty people present for each lecture. There was an interesting cross-section of people, from a number of Levi-clad students to quite a solid representation from a considerably older generation. The French and British produced the largest numbers but there was a sprinkling of Americans and those who lingered afterwards for talk were predominately from Thoreau's home country.

The lecturer, Mr. Genese, spoke with a refreshing British accent and brought to bear considerable knowledge and insight on the subject at hand. In his first lecture he spoke of Thoreau as representative of the great American Frontier Tradition, noting his extreme independence and the "spirit of adventure" incorporated into Walden.

On the second evening he presented a rather British interpretation of American Transcendentalism. He then observed that Thoreau was the last to represent this philosophy with the possible exception of Whitman. He also remarked that HDT was perhaps the best representative of Transcendentalism as he so thoroughly put it into practice throughout his life and especially in the Walden experiment.

The lecturer, Henry Genese, is a professor of the English language at the British Institute and during a brief personal conversation following the last lecture he stated that his field of expertise is actually seventeenth century English literature. In his lectures he had stated that his interest in Thoreau had begun at the age of eleven or twelve with his first reading of Walden. Captivated by the spirit of adventure in the book it became one of his bed side books, close at hand for repeated reference.

All in all Thoreau was quite well received and, as always, stimulated new interest in the principles which have made his writings relevant throughout generations.

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77350 Le Mee s Seine
France

Feb. 13, 1855

Crinoline and Grasshoppers: Thoreau's Response to Petticoats by Linda K. Walker

Unobtrusively tucked away among the two-million words in the magnificent Journal of Henry David Thoreau are two entries in which he mentions a nineteenth-century fashion phenomenon known as the

"crinoline." Writing of this "fashionable" folly, Gisele D'Assailly in her fascinating fashion history observes that "the crinoline made a good deal of ink flow in those days." Those days from 1845 to 1870, an era D'Assailly dubs "The Age of the Crinoline,"¹ were filled--both literally and metaphorically--with fashionable women on both sides of the Atlantic, wearing dramatically full skirts made even fuller by stiff petticoats made of crinoline.

The term crinoline denoted either the material used to expand a petticoat or the petticoat itself. Eventually, as skirts increased in fullness, "crinoline underskirts in multiples were added, culminating in the invention of the articulated hoop skirt";² and crinoline, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, came to be used to refer to any "petticoat lined with, or consisting of, a framework of whalebone, steel hoops, etc. worn" in order to "support or distend" the skirt of a woman's dress. Variations of this fashion resulted in "voluminous, hoop-supported skirts . . . decorated with rows of ribbons, lace insets, ruching, fringes, braid, or flowers."³ One fashionable actress wore crinolines "so wide that double doors had to be opened whenever she stepped onto the stage at the Comedie Francaise!"⁴

It is this outrageous "fashionable" folly to which Thoreau refers in the last paragraph of his journal entry for August 10, 1857:

I heard some ladies the other day laughing about some one of their help who had helped herself to a real hoop from off a hogshead for her gown. I laughed too, but which party do you think I laughed at? (Is n't [sic] hogshead as good a word as crinoline?)⁵

The hoop used by the "help" was obviously not a hoop designed for or intended for a lady's skirt; it was, instead, a circle of wood or flattened metal used for binding together the staves of a hogshead (a large cask used in the nineteenth century for transporting various articles). Although many of the fashionable hooped crinolines of the day had hoops of whalebone or of steel and although some of the full skirts of the 1850's did in fact assume the shapes of--among other things--barrels,⁶ the "ladies" whom Thoreau overheard saw a whale of a difference; apparently, there are hoops, and then there are hoops.

Two years later, Thoreau again remarks on these absurd contraptions. In his journal entry for September 16, 1859, he criticizes the superficiality of "what is called civilized life" and of conforming "ourselves in a myriad [sic] ways and with infinite pains to the fashions of our time." His tone lightens, however, when he contemplates his sister Sophia's cumbersome crinoline:

Grasshoppers have been very abundant in dry fields for two or three weeks. Sophia walked through the Depot Field a fortnight ago, and when she got home picked fifty or sixty from her skirts,--for she wore hoops and crinoline.⁷

"It is odd," D'Assailly writes, "how these crinolines fired the imagination."⁸ And Sophia's plight with her skirts and the grasshoppers did indeed fire Thoreau's imagination:

Would not this be a good day to clear a field of them,--to send a bevy of fashionably dressed ladies across a field and leave them to clean their skirts when they got home? It

would supplant anything at the patent office, and the motive power is cheap.⁹

Apparently, Thoreau did not apply for a petticoat patent. Consequently, crinolines--as well as grasshoppers--continued to flourish.

Notes

¹Gisele D'Assailly, Ages of Elegance: Five Thousand Years of Fashion and Frivolity (Paris: Librairie Hachette, 1968), pp. 188, 186, 194, 180.

²Marybelle S. Bigelow, Fashion in History: Western Dress, Prehistoric to Present (Minneapolis: Burgess), p. 233.

³Bigelow, p. 239.

⁴D'Assailly, p. 186.

⁵Henry David Thoreau, The Journal of Henry David Thoreau, ed. Bradford Torrey and Francis H. Allen, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1906.

⁶D'Assailly, p. 186.

⁷Thoreau, XII, 330, 332.

⁸D'Assailly, p. 190.

⁹Thoreau, XII, 332.

Baylor University
Waco, Texas

Mar. 1, 1855

We are indebted to the following for information in this bulletin: H. Bailey, D. Barrow, H. Bubb, M. Detterline, R. Epler, F. Penn, L. Fergenson, M. Gallagher, R. Galvin, G. Godfrey, L. Gougeon, D. Haag, A. Hackett, G. Hasenaueur, W. Heath, W. Howarth, F. Howell, P. Huber, E. Johnson, H. Kettell, M. King, R. Knaub, A. Kovar, W. Kreiger, D. McClure, W. McInnis, M. Myer, M. Moss, J. Myerson, R. Needham, M. Niblock, P. Oehser, C. Orr, G. Ryan, E. Schofield, E. Shaw, R. Thompson, J. Vickers, E. Witherell, L. Walker, and D. Yakus. Please keep the secretary informed of items he has missed and new items as they appear.

NOTES AND QUERIES:

John McAleer has announced the following nominating committee for the 1982 Annual Meeting: Thomas Blanding of Concord, MA., Joel Myerson of Columbia, S.C., Elizabeth Witherell, Chairman, 213-E Firestone Library, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. 08540. Suggestions should be sent to the chairman as early as possible. The Annual Meeting will be held in Concord on July 10th.

Ronald Hoag says he has seen on a T-shirt, "every man must believe something. As for me, I believe I will go fishing--Thoreau." He wants to know if this is truly a quotation from Henry or just a joke.

The quotation queried herein recently--"All that man has to say or do that can possibly concern mankind is in some shape or other to tell the story of his love"--has been identified by several as from the Journal for May 6, 1854 (VI, 237). And "All truth consists in the perception of an analogy; we reason from our hands to our head" is from the Journal for September 5, 1851.

Another of Joel Myerson's comprehensive bibliographies, one on Theodore Parker, has just been published by Garland Publishing in New York City.

A recent (Dec. 17, 1981) item in the CONCORD JOURNAL informs us that Walden Pond seems so far to be escaping the hazards of acid rain and still has a pH factor of 6.4.

A new committee, the Walden Forever Wild Committee (Box 275, Concord, Mass. 01742) has been recently formed with Mary Sherwood as chairman and "dedicated to making Walden Pond a national sanctuary in Memory of Henry David Thoreau."

Walter Harding will be conducting his usual Thoreau Seminars at the Thoreau Lyceum in Concord for three weeks in July. For details, write him at Genesee, New York 14454.

Harvard Common Press, Harvard, Mass. has recently reissued their edition of Louisa May Alcott's TRANSCENDENTAL WILD OATS, expanded to include her recently discovered Fruitlands diary.

According to a want ad in the Toronto GLOBE AND MAIL this past summer, an "unattached widower financially independent...wishes to settle down in a Waldenian setting with a good companion." Any takers?

The New England Village in Miniature in Wellfleet, Mass., includes a miniature model of Thoreau's Walden cabin.

Joyce Carol Oates' new novel, ANGEL OF LIGHT, takes its title from Thoreau's essay on John Brown.

Thoreau Drive in North Quincy, Mass., was so named by a member of the Quincy Planning Board who was an admirer of Thoreau.

A want ad in the July 1981 APPALACHIA tells of the formation of a group to discuss Thoreau's poetry and philosophy. Contact R. Murphy, 242 Arborway, Jamaica Plains, Mass. 02130.

There has been another surge of Thoreau greeting cards recently: "The most I can do for my friend is simply to be his friend" (Leannin' Tree, Boulder, Col.); "Reality is fabulous" (Cahill & Co., Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.); "It is remarkable how universal these grand murmurs are..." (Current, Colorado Springs); "The frontiers are not east or west..." (Current); and "It is the marriage of the soul with nature that makes the intellect fruitful..." (Hallmark, Kansas City).

The Velvet Pumpkin, a stationery store in Washington, D.C. takes its name from WALDEN.

Houses in a real estate development at Thoreau's Landing, Walden Pond Drive, Nashua, N.H. start at \$119,500.

The paragraph from WALDEN on the dead horse is quoted in Anthony Burgess's new novel EARTHLY POWERS (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1980, p.437).

Although your secretary was unable at the last minute to attend, we understand that the Thoreau Society session at the Modern Language Association convention in New York City in December was a great success with more than seventy-five attending, and with a lively discussion about teaching Thoreau in the colleges today. We are grateful to Margaret Neussendorfer of the University of Texas at Odessa for pinch-hitting for us as chairperson of the meeting.

According to the NEW YORK TIMES for Dec. 27, 1981, Dr. Josiah Gilbert Holland, Emily Dickinson's friend "waged literary war on all who did not share his evangelical beliefs. He especially despised Henry David Thoreau, who, 'instead of...striving with a great band of Christian workers to lift the multitude out of vice and crime and misery, refused to pay his poll-tax, and went out to see how little a man could live on, amusing himself, meanwhile by poking around a pond.'"

We understand that Erma Bombeck, in one of her recent newspaper columns, has said of HDT, "Could you trust a man who talks to trees?"

Mar. 8, 1855

THOREAU IN THE HEADLINES by Barbara Anderson

[Editor's Note: Barbara Anderson of Ganado, Ariz., has often noted that the Gallup, New Mexico, Independent often has headlines pertaining to the little town of Thoreau, New Mexico. Last summer she brought to the annual meeting the poster reproduced on our next page made up of headlines clipped from the Independent beneath which she has typed in appropriate quotations from H.D.T. We are grateful to her for letting us share it with you.

Thoreau Travels To Cuba

I have travelled much in company.

I have traveled much in Concord.

Thoreau is running out of water

\$50,000 granted

It is well to have some water in your neighborhood.
It is well to have some water in the earth you look
at. It is well to have some water in the world you
live in. — Henry David Thoreau

The mom is my well really dup

It is well to have some water in your neighborhood to give buoyancy to and float the earth. One will even find that when you look at the earth from space, even of the smallest world, that the earth is not a continent but a small island in the water. Into it you see that it keeps inflating. This is as important as that it keeps inflating. But let's cool.

**\$50,000 granted
to Thoreau for
new water well**

**Thoreau plans
Easter egg hunt**
Our life is frittered away by detail.

It is a great advantage for a traveller to be a gentleman.

Thoreau builds a church

"en obey their call and go to the stove-warm church, though God exhibits himself to the walker in a frostid bush today as much as in a burning on to roses of old.

But, wherever a man goes, men will
 their dirty limitations, and, if they can, constrain him to
 Thoreau refuses county ultimatum

But, wherever a man goes, men will pursue and paw him with their dirty institutions, and, if they can, constrain him to belong to their desperate odd-bellow society.

Controversy swirls around Thoreau incident

My, then, should the half-dozen owners and the individuals who set the fire alone free from the loss of the wool, while the rest of the town have their profits reduced by the loss of the owners, however, here the latter loss like men, but other some declared that my back that I was a "damned rascal" and a filbert-fitter or two, who crowded like the old cock, shrouded some reminiscences of "burnt words" from safe recesses for some years after.

Thoreau is offered land, cash

I would rather sit on a pumpkin and have it all to myself than be crowded on a velvet cushion.

Thoreau eases past Pine Hill

I am always struck by the centrality of the observer's position. He always stands fronting the middle of the arch, and does not suspect at first that a thousand observers on a thousand hills unfold the sun set sky from equally favorable positions.

The editors of newspapers, the popular clergy, politicians and orators of the day and office-holders, though they may be thought to be of very different politics and religion, are essentially one and homogeneous, inasmuch as they are only the various ingredients of the froth which forever floats on the surface of society.

Thoreau Puts Five On Team

Property boundaries disputed in new Thoreau subdivision

And when the factory was not his house, he may not be the Fletcher but the brother for it and it be the house that was not his.

Thoreau to face incorporation **Thoreau helps alcoholics**

I must cultivate privacy

Thoreau Boys Hope To Break Jinx

we awake to a storm, drizzling rain which threatens to delay our plane . . .

Thoreau's Future Is Topic Of Community Meetings

If I do this, most will command me as an industrious and hard-working man; but if I choose to devote myself to certain labors which yield more real profit, though but little money, they may be inclined to look on me as an idler.

Thoreau Errors Costly park funding

... a man is rich in proportion to the number of things which he can afford to let alone.

Thoreau gets

Money is not required to buy un-
necessary of the soul.

As for Doing-good, that is one of the professions which are full